



THE  
OFFICIAL  
ORGAN  
OF THE

## Library Assistants' Association.

Vol. 2.

JULY, 1900.

No. 10.

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## SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS. A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

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### THE INDICATOR.

"Library Construction, Architecture, Fittings, and Furniture." By F. J. BURGoyNE. 1897.

"The Cotgreave Indicator is that in use in the majority of the British Free Libraries."

"The Free Library: Its History and Present Condition." By J. J. OGLE. 1897.

"The Recording Indicator is almost certainly the invention of Mr. A. Cotgreave (Public Libraries, West Ham, London, E.), and is that most largely used."\*

### "THE SCOTSMAN."

"All the London Free Public Libraries (which use indicators except one), have adopted the Cotgreave System, which has been found to work well."†

N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

\* As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using indicators. Over 300 Institutions are now using it.

† Sixty-two Public Libraries in London and the Metropolitan area are using it.

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### MAGAZINE RACKS.

"FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, WANDSWORTH.

The Cotgreave Magazine Rack has been in use in the news-room here since the opening of the Library. I can unhesitatingly speak of its value, for it greatly tends to keep the tables tidy. Being so compact it takes up little room, and a reader can see at a glance the periodical he wishes to read.\*

C. T. DAVIS, Secretary and Librarian."

\* The Cotgreave Racks are in use at some 50 Libraries and Literary Institutions, from which similar testimonials have been received.

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### NEARLY READY.

### THE CONTENTS-SUBJECT INDEX, TO GENERAL AND PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

Price to Subscribers, 7s. 6d. Price when published, 10s. 6d.  
(800 copies have already been subscribed for.—See List).

### "DAILY NEWS."

"A 'Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature' would, if properly done, be a great time-saving machine. Such a work is being undertaken by Mr. A. Cotgreave. The first part, which is now before us, is distinctly promising. It will be helpful to many students and readers."

### "DUBLIN REVIEW."

"The Editor of the 'DUBLIN REVIEW' (Canon Moyes), desires me to thank you for the specimen of the 'Contents-Subject Index,' and to say that he has formed a high opinion of it, in fact he has already found it useful."

T. W. HUNTER, Librarian, Archbishop's House, Westminster.

Similar expressions of opinion have been received from a large number of leading journals, and from many well-known English and American Librarians.

N.B.—The Contents-Subject Index will be supplied to all Library Assistants at the reduced price of 5s., if applied for before publication.

Full particulars of the above and also of other Library Aids sent upon application.





# THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. FIFTH SESSION. YEAR 1899-1900.

*Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.*

## SUMMER PROGRAMME.

The members of the L.A.A. and their friends are reminded of the kind invitation of Mr. Martin to the Hammersmith Public Libraries on Wednesday, July 4th, when he will receive them at the Central Library, Ravenscourt Park, at 4 o'clock. After some light refreshment the library and park may be seen, and a pleasant walk to the Shepherds Bush Library will enable the visitors, together with any late comers, to meet at 7.30 and enjoy a short paper from Mr. Martin on "Some Literary and Artistic Associations of Hammersmith." Intending visitors who have not already done so will please send Mr. Martin a post card without delay.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fifth Annual Meeting was held at 8 p.m., on Wednesday, June 20th, at 20, Hanover Square. There was a fair attendance of members.

The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read, and the retiring Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, emphasising some of the more noteworthy items. Mr. McDouall rose to second the motion, which Mr. Soper supported, with regret that the attendances of members of committee were not printed. The adoption of the report was then carried unanimously.

Mr. J. W. Brown, acting for the Hon. Sec., *pro. tem.*, read a letter from Mr. Armitage Denton regretting his unavoidable absence, and formally placing his resignation before the meeting. The Chairman then declared the duly elected officers of the Association as follows:—

Chairman : Mr. E. G. REES.  
Hon. Treasurer : Mr. W. G. CHAMBERS.  
Hon. Secretary : Mr. J. W. BROWN.

Mr. Chambers reported, on behalf of the Scrutineers, the result of the ballot as follows:

## London Members of Committee.

Ogle, H. (Hampstead) ...	49	Bullen, R. F. (Poplar) ...	32
Thorne, W. B. (St. Bride)...	45		
Green, T. (Shoreditch) ...	44		
Vellenoweth, W. J. (Minet) ...	41		
Hogg, J. F. (Battersea) ...	40		
Carter, A. H. (St. Martin) ...	39		
Roebuck, G. E. (St. George, E.) ...	39		
Ward, A. T. (Cripplegate)...	36		
Wood, R. B. (St. George, Hanover Square) ...	35		
McDouall, W. B. (Hammersmith) ...	32		

*Non-London Members of Committee.*

Cunningham, W. ( <i>Liverpool</i> )	39	Tilling, A. E. ( <i>Bristol</i> )	... 27
Gordon, P. D. ( <i>Mudie's, Manchester</i> )	... 39	Radcliffe, J. ( <i>East Ham</i> )	... 26
Swann, T. H. ( <i>Manchester</i> )	38	Jones, G. ( <i>Openshaw</i> )	... 24
Hair, A. ( <i>Tynemouth</i> )	... 34	Parkinson, H. ( <i>Warrington</i> )	23
Young, W. B. ( <i>Leyton</i> )	... 34	Pomfret, J. ( <i>Blackburn</i> )	... 22
Hatcher, S. A. ( <i>West Ham</i> )	31		
Ewing, J. C. ( <i>Glasgow</i> )	... 31		
McDougall, D. ( <i>West Ham</i> )	31		
Quarmby, W. ( <i>Oldham</i> )	... 30		
Baker, A. ( <i>Ashton-under-Lyne</i> )	... 27		

The left hand columns show the composition of the new Committee.

Messrs. McDouall and Bullen polled the same number of votes, and Messrs. Baker and Tilling also tied. By means of a ballot machine the members present cast votes as follows:—

McDouall, W. B.	... 16	Bullen, R. F.	... 3
Baker, A.	... 10	Tilling, A. E.	... 7

Having occupied the chair, Mr. Rees expressed in well-chosen and sympathetic words the feeling of the members of the Association towards their late Hon. Secretary, Mr. Dyer, a token of which he asked him to accept in the form of a pair of silver candlesticks, and silver pen tray with ink well. The latter was inscribed as follows:—

" To  
BERTRAM L. DYER,  
20th June, 1900.

A token of esteem from the members on his resignation of the offices of Hon. Secretary of the Library Assistants' Association and Hon. Editor of the 'Library Assistant.'

In thanking the Association, Mr. Dyer dwelt upon the pleasure which the work had always afforded him, and said that his reward was sufficient in the friendships he had formed, but he should nevertheless always regard this beautiful mark of their esteem with peculiar pleasure, as a reminder of his official connection with them.

The envelopes containing the real names of the winners in the L.A.A. 1900 Prize Essay Competition were now opened by the Chairman, who read out the names.

The Senior Cotgreave 1900 Prize of £1 1s., for the best essay on "How best to extend the usefulness of the L.A.A.," was won by Mr. B. L. Dyer.

The Junior 1900 Prize of £1 for the best essay on "The use and abuse of hobbies for library assistants," was won by Mr. A. A. R. Anderson, of St. George-in-the-East Public Library, Mr. W. J. C. Farnell's essay being highly commended.

The Junior Bournemouth 1900 Special Prize of £1 5s. (offered by Mr. Sayers of Bournemouth, who took it last year,) for the best essay on "The duties of a library assistant," was won by Mr. W. J. C. Farnell, of Kingsland Road Library, Shoreditch, Mr. Ernest Turnbull, of the Stephenson Branch of the Newcastle Public Libraries, being highly commended.

Mr. Hogg, Hon. Secretary of the Branches Sub-Committee, then moved, on behalf of the North-Western Branch, according to notice:—

That the "Memorandum as to Branches," dated 16th November, 1898, together with the following additions and alterations, be added to and incorporated with the existing rules of the Library Assistants' Association—

1. That it is desirable, where possible, to organise meetings for educational and other purposes in centres outside London.
  2. That the best way to procure such meetings will be by the formation of branch associations by the library assistants of a particular district, who shall elect their own committee of not less than five members, and who shall have the sole control of all local matters, but who shall be bound by the L.A.A. rules.
  3. That members electing to join a branch shall pay their subscription to the same, and the treasurer of the branch shall pay to the treasurer of the L.A.A. an agreed amount for the cost of sending to all members copies *post free* of the Association's official journal, notices, &c.
- N.B.—While the subscription to the Association is 2s. 6d. for junior and 5s. for senior members, the local treasurer shall pay to the treasurer of the L.A.A. from each and every sum so received 2s. for a junior member and 3s. 6d. for a senior member.
- Par. 1. That this paragraph stand as printed.
- " 2. That the words "including the election of members to the L.A.A. through their branch," be inserted after the words "local matters."
- " 3. That this paragraph be altered to read as follows:—"All members from a branch district, electing to join the L.A.A. must do so through such branch. Further, that all members leaving one district for another shall be transferred to the branch in the new district, where there is one—in any other case they shall cease to be members of a branch, and shall become members of the General Association.  
That no member shall be entitled to a transfer if in arrears with his subscription, or in other ways indebted to his branch, and must have the same effected through the local secretary, who shall duly notify all such changes to secretary of branches, within one month of such change.  
Members joining a branch shall pay their subscriptions to the local treasurer, who shall be required to remit to the general treasurer such sums per head as may be agreed upon between the various bodies from time to time.  
Branches may reserve the right to charge an entry fee over and above the annual subscription fixed by the Association for members generally.
4. That whenever possible a space shall be allotted in the official journal for announcements and accounts of branch meetings.
- " 4. *Delete* the words "whenever possible" before "a space shall, etc."
5. That no branch shall be formed without the sanction of the L.A.A. Committee, or of the annual meeting, and that the area of the district proposed for a branch shall be not too large, so that members may attend a central place of meeting at a small travelling expense.
- " 5. *Insert* after the word "large" the words "the boundaries of which must be clearly defined."  
*Add* this clause "The boundary of the district wherein there is a branch of the L.A.A. established must be registered with the General Secretary, and published in the annual reports of the Association."
6. That no application for the formation of a branch be considered by the L.A.A. Committee, unless 10 or more members in the proposed district signify in writing a wish that such branch be formed.
- " 6. *Add* this clause "That branches may formulate special rules for their own local government, but must notify same in 'The Assistant,' and also lodge a copy of proposed rules, or rules, with the Secretary of branches, fourteen days before meeting to confirm same."

*New Par. 7.* "That any rule, or rules, formulated by a branch may be vetoed by a majority of the General Committee; Notice of Objection to be lodged with the Local Secretary fourteen days before the Meeting of the General Committee (members of which may vote in writing if unable to attend in person).

"All cases of dispute with, or between branches, to be referred to the above Committee for decision, which shall be final."

Signed on behalf of N.W. Committee,  
JOHN H. SWANN,

*Chairman.*  
P. D. GORDON,  
*Hon. Sec.*

It was arranged to deal with the memorandum paragraph by paragraph, and a detailed discussion was joined in by Messrs. Chambers, Hogg, McDouall, Peddie, Rees, F. M. Roberts, Soper, Wood, and others, but it became evident that it would be impossible to get through more than a fraction of the motion during the evening. Various suggestions were made, and Mr. Dyer finally moved the following amendment:—

"That the 'Memorandum as to Branches,' dated 16th November, 1898, be printed with the existing Rules of the Library Assistants' Association, and that the whole matter of the Rules be considered by the Committee, who shall report as early as possible to a general meeting called for that purpose."

This was seconded by Mr. Ogle, and carried by twelve votes to one.

Mr. Dyer then moved a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Officers and Committee for their services during the past year, Mr. Soper seconded, and, after it was carried, Mr. Thorne replied.

The kindness of Mr. MacAlister in again placing a room at the disposal of the Association was then warmly acknowledged with a unanimous vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Vellenoweth and seconded by Mr. Green.

In moving a vote of thanks to the Chair, Mr. Ogle congratulated the Association on their new Chairman, who would now be able to exercise his deep interest in the well-being of the Association from a more effective coign of vantage. Mr. Young seconded, and in replying, Mr. Rees urged upon the members to take advantage of the monthly meetings in larger numbers, to their own benefit, and to the encouragement of the Committee.

The business of the meeting terminated with the usual announcements.

#### N. W. BRANCH: JUNE MEETING.

On Saturday, June 23rd, a number of the library assistants of the North-Western District paid a visit to Chester, and were conducted by Mr. Caddie, the Librarian, over the Public Library, to see the arrangements of the institution.

The meeting in the ladies' reading room was presided over by Dr. Henry Stolterfoth, J.P., Chairman of the Library Committee, who was supported on the platform by the Lord Bishop of Chester, and other

gentlemen. After a few words of welcome from the Chairman, Mr. Caddie read an interesting and lengthy paper, in which he sketched the history of the Chester Library from its inception in 1877 down to the present time. He referred *en passant* to the opening of the first Subscription Library in Chester in 1826, and to the fact that the Mechanics' Institute, founded in 1835, was the forerunner of the present institution. In the upper portion of the building Mr. Luke Fildes, R.A., commenced his career; also John Caldecott, the father of another distinguished artist—Mr. Randolph Caldecott. Mr. Caddie proceeded to give many interesting facts and figures of the Library's progress, dealing with the open-access experiment, and the question of Sunday opening, but as space is limited, the writer hopes on another occasion to deal with this phase of a paper which teemed with many interesting and debateable questions.

The Chairman, having intimated that their time was now short, requested the Bishop to say a few words. His Lordship, who was warmly greeted, said that it gave him great pleasure to meet them, but as he knew that they were under a roof most of the week, he would not detain them long from the green fields on such a fine afternoon. He was glad to learn that they were an Association formed and controlled by assistants for assistants. They might rest assured that the more they believed in themselves, and the more efficient they made themselves, so would they rise in public esteem. They could do more good by means of such an Association than if they held aloof from one another and remained scattered units. He wished their efforts every success, and trusted that they would prosper alike to their own and to the public welfare. He might say that he was an advocate of Sunday opening of libraries and museums, provided they were properly controlled by thoroughly efficient management; but it was not his intention to enlarge upon any of the points which Mr. Caddie had raised. He would, therefore, advise them to make the most of their remaining time in Chester and pass it in the open air.

Dr. Stolterfoth invited the visitors to partake of tea ere leaving for Hawarden. Mr. Swann asked them, before departing, to show their appreciation of the honour bestowed on them by the presence of his Lordship and the other gentlemen there, and moved that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to the Bishop, the Library Committee of Chester—coupled with Dr. Stolterfoth as Chairman—and to Mr. Caddie for his paper.

The visitors then proceeded in brakes to Hawarden; where, arriving at St. Deiniol's Library, which, as all may recollect, was founded and endowed by the late Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and consists mainly of the books purchased by him in the course of his lifetime. The visitors were shown over the building by the Deputy-Warden (Mr. Ogle), a delightful cicerone. As he led his visitors from point to point, illustrating his remarks with little anecdotes of the founder, one began to realize what an interesting searcher after knowledge the celebrated statesman was. There being a standing rule that visitors must not remove volumes from the shelves, Mr. Ogle from time to time took down a book, in order to show what a thoroughly systematic reader Mr. Gladstone was. Each book shows annotations in his handwriting on nearly every page, and the pithy comments are entirely characteristic. Needless to say, copying these is not allowed on any

pretext whatever, for obvious reasons. The principal thing which strikes one on entering the building is the marvellous compactness of the collection. There are nearly 34,300 volumes, and one has to see, in order to appreciate, an arrangement whereby not an inch of space is wasted. The Library has a splendid example of the card-catalogue, and may be roughly divided into two sections, the Humanities and Theology. The first section is notable for several presses containing all the works on Ireland, numbering many hundreds, which the aged statesman read during his Home Rule campaign. The theological division is notable from the fact that, here, during the declining years of his life, Mr. Gladstone passed a great deal of his time in arranging the books just as they stand in their presses to-day. When the new building (the National Memorial) is ready for its reception the collection will have a home worthy of it, and as time goes on St. Deiniol's Hostel will become the Mecca of the student and scholar desirous of rest and study. Here, away from the hurly-burly of our crowded cities, amidst the pleasant green fields overlooking the valley of the Dee, future generations will find a monument more enduring than mere bronze or marble; and those who have the privilege—as we had—of a close inspection will return abashed at their own puny attainments as they realize the tremendous diversity of interests and keen research after truth to which those silent tomes bear witness.

Before leaving the building a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Ogle, after which the visitors were photographed prior to returning to Chester *en route* for home.

P. D. G.

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Copies of the photograph of the group of assistants taken at St. Deiniol's may be had through the Hon. Secretary of the N. W. Branch, post free, 2s. 9d.

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N.W. BRANCH: JULY MEETING.

Mr. Henry Guppy will have "A Talk with Assistants" at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, on TUESDAY, JULY 10th, meeting from 6.30 p.m.

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CATALOGUING EXTRAORDINARY.—The worthy business men who manage the Blackpool Free Library would have done well to engage some competent person to compile their catalogue. The present catalogue is an amazing and amusing production. The mistakes in spelling, such as "Alton Loche," are too numerous to mention, but there are much more startling blunders. Gustave Doré is put down as the author of "Baron Munchausen," and Charles Lamb is stated to be the biographer of Canon Ainger! One strange book in this catalogue is a theological work by Stillingfleet entitled "Rational account of the Grounds of." To Stewart is attributed a work on "The Conversation of Energy," and Dr. Stanley Jevons is credited with a "Poetical Economy." Another of the entries is "Richard Bentley and other writing," by De Quincy, and Mr. Meredith is made responsible for "The Shavings of Shagpat and Farina." Moreover, Fielding's novels are classified as history, and Foster's and Coleridge's Essays, and Lord Avebury's "Pleasures of Life," as fiction. Last, but not least, all the works of Isaac Disraeli are attributed to Lord Beaconsfield! These are only some specimens of the entries in the most humorous catalogue yet produced.—*Evening News*.



BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Battersea Central Library, a view of which appears above, was erected in 1889 from the designs of Mr. E. W. Mountford, F.R.I.B.A., who was also the architect of the Battersea Town Hall, the Battersea Polytechnic, and the Sheffield Town Hall. It is generally considered a cheap building, as it consists of four storeys, including the basement, with a frontage on Lavender Hill of 86 feet, and a depth of 105 feet, yet the total cost, furniture and fittings included, was under £7,000.

The building is constructed of red brick with Portland stone dressings, the front elevation being a free treatment of Flemish, and, although there is little in the design to suggest the public character of the building, it is considered by good judges to be artistically effective, and to possess both dignity and distinction. On the ground floor the two principal Reading Rooms (News Room and Magazine Room) are in front, one on either side of the entrance, while the Lending Department extends right across the rear of the building. The Reference Library is situated on the first floor immediately over the Lending Library, and rises through the second floor, which is marked by the gallery, to the roof where a large lantern supplies the light, the walls being shelved throughout. On the first floor there is also a large Book Store communicating with the Reference Library, and on the second floor a room of the same dimensions communicating with the gallery. Each of these rooms will hold over 20,000 volumes. There is also in the basement a Book Store of the same size as the Lending Library; the entire building being able to accommodate about 200,000 volumes. Two years ago a sum of £2,000 was spent on enlarging the Lending Department, which had for some time been found too small for the work it had to do.

The foundation stone was laid on May 2nd, 1889, by Sir John Lubbock, and the building was opened on March 26th, 1890, by Mr. Mundella. During the ten years which elapsed between the opening and March 25th, 1900, the number of volumes issued was 1,955,245.

Battersea is one of several London Parishes which distinguished the Jubilee of Queen Victoria by establishing Public Libraries. The Acts were adopted on March 16th, 1887, and the first Board of Commissioners elected by the Vestry on June 1st. No time was lost by the Commissioners in putting the Acts into effectual operation, and before any rate was levied for that purpose they had opened two reading rooms, made agreements for the acquisition of sites for the Central Library and Lurline Gardens Branch, and commenced to purchase the books for the Lending Library at Lammas Hall, which was opened on October 25th, 1888. The Lurline Gardens Branch was opened on September 30th, 1890.

#### AN INTERESTING EXAMINATION.

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The question of the junior assistant and his education is always a burning one. Some libraries have instituted an examination to test the qualifications of lads desirous of employment, and it were to be desired that such practice became more general. As affording a useful indication of what the London education authorities consider a fit test for lads of fifteen or sixteen entering into an office in a junior capacity, the following account of an examination held by the London School Board of 12 candidates selected from those who applied for two junior vacancies as "office youths," at a wage of ten shillings per week, may be interesting.

Candidates were asked to attend at the office at 10.30, and were first given a test in arithmetic. Four questions were to be answered out of six.

- 1.—(a) What must be taken from  $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{17}$  of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to leave  $3\frac{1}{2}$  of  $\frac{1}{11} - \frac{1}{2}$  ?  
 (b) Compare  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{2}{7}$ ,  $\frac{5}{11}$  ; find the difference between the sum of the greatest and least, and the sum of the other two ?
- 2.—Find the difference between  $\frac{5}{18}$  of 4s. 6d. and .0625 of £1 1s., and express  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. as the decimal of 1s.
- 3.—Find, by practice, the cost of two thousand and seventy-seven tons at £3 13s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton.
- 4.—At what rate per cent. will the simple interest on £2,938 15s. amount to £56 7s. in 200 days ?
- 5.—An army loses 18 per cent. by sickness, then 14 per cent. of the remainder in battle : it then contains 84,624 men. What was the original number ?
- 6.—How much is gained or lost per cent. by selling a basket of apples at 2 for a penny, if half of them were bought at 5 for 3d., and the rest at 3 for a 1d. ?

A short essay had then to be written on one of the following subjects :—

- (a) The Post Office, (b) The Thames at London, or (c) A public park.

Then three of the following questions had to be answered :—

- 1.—Name two or three of the chief works of each of the following, and give a short account of *one* of the works you mention :—Milton, Wordsworth, Macaulay, Tennyson.
- 2.—For what are the following places noted or interesting ? State as exactly as you can the geographical situation of each : Niagara, Beira, Simla, Kumassi, Corea.
- 3.—Name three important Acts of Parliament passed during the present reign, and state why you consider them important.
- 4.—Detail the steps taken for the election of a Member of Parliament from the time a vacancy occurs, until the new member takes his seat in the House.
- 5.—Draw a diagram with explanatory letterings, to show how an ordinary mercurial barometer acts.
- 6.—Why does ice form on, and remain on the surface of water ?

A short paragraph from a leader of the daily paper was then dictated at the rate of about 30 words per minute, as a test in shorthand—and a similar paragraph at the rate of 60 words as a further test. These two paragraphs had then to be transliterated into ordinary script, and with this the examination concluded about noon.—B. L. D.

#### LITERATURE.

A very eminent Englishman has said that to truly write what he sees is the greatest thing a man can do. If this dictum stands good,

then literature occupies a position of supremacy amongst the arts, and its ablest votaries belong to those niches of achievement which contain the greatest of mankind. By the medium of literature scenes the most various, material or mental, may be conjured up before the eye, and they may be expressed in language of liquid melody or deep harmony with infinite combination. Read the "Merchant of Venice" and "The Blot in the Scutcheon" and observe, as a mental expression, how like they are, when taken as a whole, to two statues, the one fashioned in the highest art, with perfect symmetry and flawless moulding; the other masterly in conception and execution, but lacking the infinite refinement of detail and a certain large ease of manner belonging to the former. Ben Jonson's Roman plays impress the sense as massive architecture comparable with the appearance of some stately building. In addition to these qualities, each requiring a particular art for its perfection, literature possesses that of literally embodying abstract ideas in detail, and it is by virtue of this, its own particular power, that it becomes the utterance of the intellect of the nation. The history of the literature of a people traces the course of the thoughts of that people through inception, progress, maturity, decadence and renaissance.

Literature has several varieties of form, and poetry, as requiring the highest combination of faculties for its perfection, is the highest manner which literature, as an art, can take. In studying poetry, we gather information concerning the condition of the mind of the author, and, through the author, of his age and country, not only with respect to the peculiar faculty which constitutes a certain class of writers and poets, but also respecting theology, philanthropy, art, science, social and political life, and natural scenery, which are reflected in the most genuine and highly concentrated mode in poetic productions.

#### THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Sixth Session of the Summer School was inaugurated by a reception at 20, Hanover Square, on the evening of Monday, 25th June, by the invitation of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A. During the evening, in the absence of Dr. R. Garnett, who had been expected to be present, Mr. MacAlister kindly distributed the prizes won by students at the examinations held by the Education Committee last April. Mr. J. Facfarlane, of the British Museum, occupied the chair. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. D. Roberts, announced that prizes would be given for the best reports on the week's work, and stated that joint reports, in the case of students who could only attend during a part of the time, would be admitted. The competing reports to be sent in by 14th July to the Hon. Secretary, 44a, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E. We hope to give a full report in our next issue.

#### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

The annual excursion in connection with the Society of Public Librarians took place on Wednesday, 20th June, when a visit was paid to Rochester. The members were met by Mr. L. Eric A. Prothero (Librarian), and proceeded to the library and old Corn Exchange,

where the Rev. A. J. Pearman and Mrs. Pearman, on behalf of the Library Committee, welcomed the society to Rochester. After light refreshments—which had been thoughtfully provided by Mr. Prothero—the members were conducted over the ancient castle and cathedral by George Payne, Esq., F.S.A., local Hon. Sec. to the Kent Archaeological Society, who explained very fully the interesting features of these places. From Rochester the party walked through Cobham Park to Cobham Church (which contains the finest set of brasses in the county of Kent), and here again everything of interest was pointed out by Mr. Payne. Tea was provided at the “Leather Bottle” (of Pickwick fame), after which a visit was made to Cobham College.

During the evening Mr. Moon (Chairman), on behalf of the members, presented Mr. Goss—who has been Hon. Secretary of the society since its commencement—with a beautiful set of cutlery in an oak case, with a suitable inscription and facsimile of his signature engraved thereon, as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the members; and hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Payne and Mr. Prothero.

#### NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The summer meeting was held on Thursday, June 28th, at Darley Dale, Derbyshire. There was a good attendance of members—*librarians and library assistants*—from the counties of Nottingham, Derby and Lincoln. The Whitworth Institute, with its library and museum was visited, as was also the parish church, with its antiquities and famous yew tree. No papers were read. Tea was partaken of in the grounds adjacent to the Institute. A very pleasant half-day was spent.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

EASTBOURNE.—Plans and elevation of the new Technical Institute and Public Library appeared in the “British Architect” of June 22nd. The cost of erection will be £20,000.

GLOUCESTER.—The new Library was opened by Lord Avebury, on May 31st. It consists of News-room, Lending and Reference Departments. The Lending Department will be worked on the “open access” system.

STOKE NEWINGTON.—A most courageous act has been performed by Ernest Bliss, an evening assistant here. Whilst playing cricket on the banks of the Lea, he observed a boy struggling in the water, and without a moment's hesitation plunged in and succeeded in rescuing the lad, who was nearly exhausted.

WALLASEY.—The formal opening of the Public Library took place under promising auspices. Principal Dale, of University College, Liverpool, performed the ceremony, delivering a very interesting address. Several members of the Committee also spoke, and Mr. Cadenhead, the Librarian, seconded the vote of thanks to the Chairman. There are 12,000 volumes to commence with.

WEST HAM.—There is to be no increase in the rate, the burgesses having decided against it by 9879 votes against 7872. Mr. Passmore Edwards had offered to present a branch for Plaistow, of the same size and design as the East Ham Public Library, but owing to this adverse poll has withdrawn the offer.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—An elevation of the new building now in course of erection appeared in the "Building News," May 11th.

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#### NOTICES.

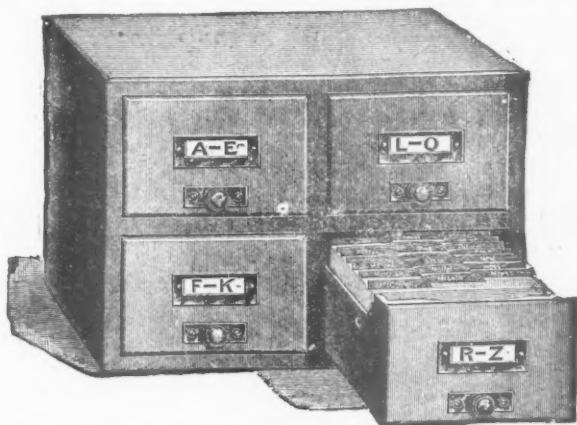
All communications relating to the Journal should be addressed to Mr. Henry Ogle, *Hon. Editor, pro. tem.*, 60, Constantine Road, N.W.

All other communications relating to the Association should be addressed to Mr. J. W. Brown, *Hon. Sec.*, L.A.A., Public Library, Kingsland Road, N.E.





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